

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



(11)

**EP 0 823 259 A3**

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:  
19.08.1998 Bulletin 1998/34

(51) Int Cl.<sup>6</sup>: **A61M 16/00, G01N 27/407**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
11.02.1998 Bulletin 1998/07

(21) Application number: **97305367.1**

(22) Date of filing: **18.07.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC  
NL PT SE**

(30) Priority: **05.08.1996 US 692248**

(71) Applicant: **OHMEDA INC.**  
**Liberty Corner, New Jersey 07938-0804 (US)**

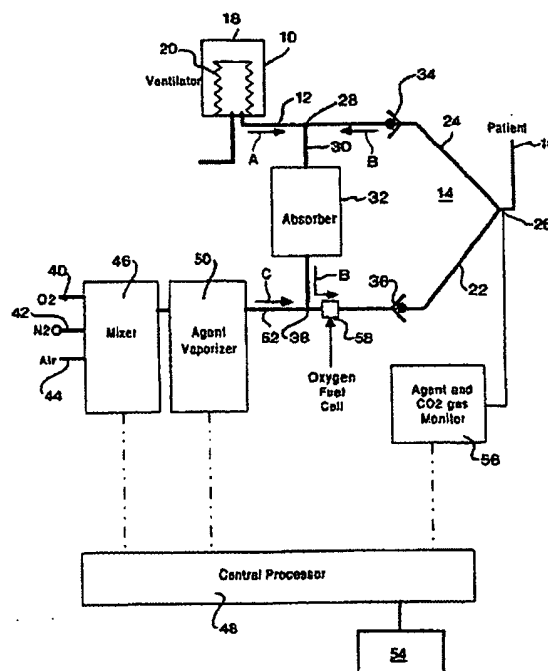
(72) Inventors:  
• **Tham, Robert Q.**  
**Madison, Wisconsin 53502 (US)**

• **Keitel, Todd**  
**DeForest, Wisconsin 53532 (US)**

(74) Representative:  
**Hedley, Nicholas James Matthew et al**  
**Stephenson Harwood**  
**One, St. Paul's Churchyard**  
**London EC4M 8SH (GB)**

### (54) Automatic air wash for anesthesia system

(57) An anesthesia system is disclosed that prolongs the lifetime of an oxygen fuel cell (58) be used to detect the concentration of oxygen in that anesthesia system. The system determines and provides a signal (60) indicating the end of any particular operation using the anesthesia system and that signal (60) is used to cut off all gas supplies (40,42) with the exception of the fresh air supply (44) which is then allowed to pass through the system to wash the various lines (22,24,30,52), including the conduit having the oxygen gas fuel cell (58) thus preventing the typically high concentrations of oxygen used in a operation from remaining in the oxygen fuel cell (58) for an unnecessary period of time. Furthermore, the gases in the anesthesia machine are eliminated along with their deleterious effects and replaced by fresh air from the normal supply of fresh air (44) to the system.





European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 30 5367

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	US 4 883 051 A (WESTENSKOW DWAYNE R ET AL) 28 November 1989 * abstract; figures * * column 4, line 22 - column 7, line 19 *	1,8	A61M16/00 G01N27/407
A	EP 0 684 049 A (SIEMENS ELEMA AB) 29 November 1995 * abstract; figures * * column 5, line 36 - line 56 *	1,8	
A	US 4 359 057 A (MANZELLA GIOVANNI) 16 November 1982 * abstract; figures * * column 2, line 24 - line 60 *	1,8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A61M G01N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>22 June 1998</b>	Examiner <b>Zeinstra, H</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			